Extracts

of a letter from J. B. Estlin — dated

15— Bristol, Jan. 26. 1853.

— "— Many English friends have done more for the Liberator than I have. I must testify my sense of Mr. Garrison's zeal in conducting an A. S. paper, & therefore beg of you to make the offering of £10. in behalf of the Liberator, and in such a way as may be most pleasant & useful to Mr. Garrison. — To you I may express my Concern, that, (while willing to admit my inability to understand peculiarities in the minds, requirements, & proceedings of the leaders of your Society,) I should now, after 8 years of attention to the Subject, — of increasing interest in it, & certainly with considerable knowledge of the cause in this County, when asked to recommend an Am^n. A. S. paper to friend, be obliged to avoid naming the Liberator, — the paper which, of all others, I prefer, & which contains all that is needed here more than any other paper! — It is indeed grievous to me, when anxious to lend the Liberator to some person to read a powerful article, to be continually obliged to withhold it. And why

so? Simply because I cannot dare to impede the A. S. cause: for I know where the Libr. w°. gain one friend, it would repel five. I am not justifying English taste & sentiment, I only deal with the fact. — And is it not a serious one? Am I to be persuaded that all this is our intolerance, bigotry, & narrowness, and that in the U. S. the Libr. repels no earnest, truthful, serious mind from this holy cause? I cannot believe it. That funeral discourse of H. C. Wright's, in a back No°, I look upon as a disgrace to any paper, circulating among people who have the slightest respect for Christianity. It is desirable for you to know, that there are other impediments to the A. S. movement in England, than John Scoble & the Broad St. Com.tee —

But I am writing a Sermon, not the Skeleton!!

In another place: —

— "Our work is to make people thoroughly Garrisonian abolitionists, without their being aware of it until their opinions are formed."

N. B. I had quite a laugh over that

E. M. Jr.

And again;-

"I wish the Lib^{ls} did not afford enemies to the A.S. cause such weapons for attacking it; and did not neutralize the energies of so many of its friends. Here lies one of the trials of the true abolitionists of England; in time I trust the main difficulties will be removed".

Once more:-

"Mr. Quincy's manner of joking, though generally amusing to me, is often painful & offensive to our orthodox friends; and, depend upon it, they are the people in this country from whom an influential move in the A.S. cause is to be looked for, & aimed at. I speak as to the mass. Unitarians will do little, or even liberal politicians, e.g. John Bright; individuals however in all those ranks will plough & sow; but that alone will not bring the harvest. I can quite understand the feelings of the orthodox about the "infidel" controversy. - Mrs. Richardson is very ultra, bigoted, conceited, & overbearing, & I fear hates the "Amer A.S. Soc", though I trust only for its supposed mischievous influence."

over

Dear Mr Garrison

15 I have thus given you Mr. C.'s feelings & difficulties in his own words - mainly, in the hope that you will soon take an opportunity to write him on the subject. On some points, I think you can quite set him at rest - on others, I suspect your mental differences & constitution will long prevent your seeing quite alike. But he is so honest & candid a man, that some pains are well bestowed in replying to his difficulties.

I need not tell you that I have attempted this - once & again. I have told him I fear he defers too much to orthodox prejudices, that our principle & policy have been to utter the whole truth, no matter what sect, party, or individual might be offended - As to the contents of the Lib, they are - mostly - necessary to its consistency & fidelity to its idea, which is not ~~me~~ Anti-slavery exclusively. And I have agreed with him, in the main, in his opinion of that particular article of H.C.W.'s - the "funeral discourse" - & should probably in some other

Yours truly.

S. May Jr

Leicester, March 26, 1853.